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ABSTRACT

According to data from the 1992 Biennial Gallup Survey on Giving and Volunteering, having some level of postsecondary education is clearly associated with increased levels of volunteering and giving. Sixty-three percent of adults aged 25 years and older with some postsecondary education reported both volunteering their time and making charitable contributions within the last 12 months, whereas only 32% of those with no postsecondary education reported doing so. Among those respondents with some postsecondary education, 22% were identified as generous volunteers (volunteering at least 4 hours each week in the past 12 months). Only 12% of those individuals with no postsecondary education were found to be generous volunteers. Within income levels, adults with some postsecondary education were much more likely to report volunteering than were those adults with no postsecondary education. The difference was especially apparent among adults earning less than $20,000 annually, among whom 54% those with some postsecondary education reported volunteering versus only 27% of those with no postsecondary education. (MN)

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ED 391 981

INDICATOR OF THE MONTH

NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

March 1996

Community service and volunteerism

Giving of one's time or money is a measure of the degree to which citizens share responsibility for the welfare of their community. Higher education may increase a person's sense of responsibility to give back to their community in the form of community service and charitable contributions.

- **Having some postsecondary education was clearly associated with increased levels of volunteering and giving. Adults aged 25 years and older with some postsecondary education were twice as likely as those with less education to report both volunteering their time and making charitable contributions in the last 12 months (63 and 32 percent, respectively).**
- **Among respondents with some postsecondary education, about one-fourth (22 percent) were identified as being generous volunteers (volunteered at least 4 hours per week in the last 12 months), compared with 12 percent with no postsecondary education.**
- **Within income levels, adults with some postsecondary education were much more likely to report volunteering than were those with no postsecondary education. This was especially apparent for low income groups (less than $20,000) where adults with some postsecondary education were nearly twice as likely to report volunteering (54 percent) than were those with no postsecondary education (27 percent).**

Population 25 years and older who reported volunteering and giving charitable contributions in the last 12 months, by education level and selected characteristics: 1992

Characteristics	Percent who gave and volunteered	Percent who volunteered	Average hours/ week	Percent who were generous volunteers*	Percent who gave	Percent of income contributed	Percent who were generous givers*	Percent who were generous givers and generous volunteers	Percent who either gave or volunteered
Total	**46.6**	**51.4**	**4.3**	**16.9**	**74.2**	**2.3**	**14.8**	**5.0**	**78.9**
					No postsecondary education				
Total	**32.1**	**37.1**	**4.3**	**12.1**	**63.1**	**2.2**	**11.9**	**3.0**	**68.1**
Sex									
Male	25.9	31.1	2.8	6.5	59.1	2.1	11.1	1.8	64.2
Female	36.8	41.8	5.2	16.4	66.2	2.2	12.5	4.0	71.1
Employment status									
Full-time	36.8	43.4	3.1	10.4	63.7	1.5	7.0	1.9	70.3
Part-time	41.7	45.9	7.7	28.4	62.8	2.3	12.7	5.8	67.0
Not employed or retired	26.8	30.9	4.7	10.5	62.5	3.0	14.8	3.0	66.5
Annual income									
Less than $20,000	21.2	26.9	4.6	9.4	51.8	3.3	12.5	2.1	57.5
$20,000–$49,999	39.6	45.0	4.6	16.2	70.5	2.1	12.8	4.7	75.9
$50,000 or more	49.7	51.5	3.2	10.6	82.5	1.8	7.5	1.7	84.4
					Some postsecondary education				
Total	**63.3**	**67.6**	**4.3**	**22.2**	**86.8**	**2.4**	**18.2**	**7.3**	**91.1**
Sex									
Male	62.7	67.4	3.8	21.0	86.2	2.8	22.1	7.7	91.0
Female	64.0	67.8	4.8	23.4	87.4	2.0	14.2	6.8	91.2
Employment status									
Full-time	66.4	70.8	4.1	22.1	86.6	2.3	15.2	6.3	91.0
Part-time	69.5	72.7	4.8	29.7	90.9	2.7	20.3	13.3	94.2
Not employed or retired	54.4	58.6	4.5	20.1	85.7	2.6	24.6	7.6	89.9
Annual income									
Less than $20,000	42.2	53.5	3.6	16.2	71.2	4.9	24.7	6.5	82.4
$20,000–$49,999	64.3	68.8	4.1	20.9	85.5	2.4	14.9	5.9	89.9
$50,000 or more	69.8	71.5	4.7	25.6	93.6	2.3	19.1	8.8	95.3

*A "generous volunteer" volunteers 4 or more hours per week; a "generous giver" donates 3 percent or more of his or her annual income.

SOURCE: Biennial Gallup Survey on Giving and Volunteering (1992), sponsored by the Independent Sector.

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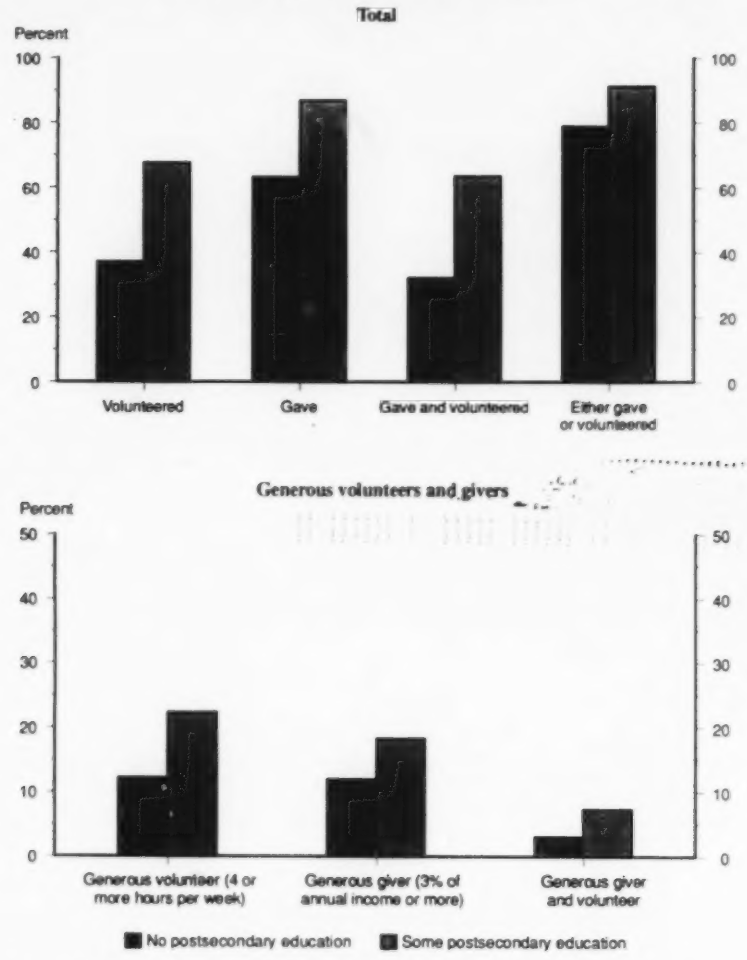
Percentage of population 25 years and older who reported various levels of volunteering or giving, by education level: 1992



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